

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 15197 300734Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 IO-13 HA-05 INR-10
NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ICA-11 PM-05 PA-01 /080 W
-----015175 310320Z /64
R 300722Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0875

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, RP
SUBJECT: MIXED SIGNALS REGARDING POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF
- MRS. MARCOS AS DEPUTY PM

REF: MANILA 14980

1. SUMMARY: "TIMES JOURNAL" AUGUST 29 SUGGESTED FIVE
POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER POST IN
ADDITION TO MRS. MARCOS. ARTICLE, HOWEVER, DEVOTED
MAJORITY OF SPACE TO REPORTS FAVORING MRS. MARCOS'
CANDIDACY. END SUMMARY.

2. "TIMES JOURNAL," OWNED BY IMELDA MARCOS' BROTHER KOKOY,
CONTINUED TO KEEP QUESTION OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERSHIP IN
PUBLIC EYE WITH FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE SUGGESTING FIVE OTHER
POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. ACCORDING
TO "TIMES JOURNAL," NOW THAT MRS. MARCOS HAS SAID SHE IS
NOT INTERESTED, "POLITICAL CIRCLES YESTERDAY BUZZED WITH
REPORTS ABOUT FIVE ELDERLY MEMBERS OF THE BATASANG PAMBANSA
BEING PROMINENTLY MENTIONED FOR THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S
POST." SUGGESTED WERE IBP MEMBERS EMILIO ABELLO, SR.,
NICANOR E. YNIGUEZ, JOSE P. BENGZON, HELENA Z. BENITEZ,
AND FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO. ARTICLE POINTED OUT THAT,
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WITH EXCEPTION OF BENITEZ AND YNIGUEZ, LIST IGNORED
EXPERIENCED POLITICIANS AMONG IBP MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE
CANDIDATES.

3. "TIMES JOURNAL" QUOTED REACTION OF ONLY ONE OF FIVE
INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED, YNIGUEZ, WHO DISMISSED AS "PURE
SPECULATION" THE INCLUSION OF HIS NAME AMONG POSSIBLE

CANDIDATES. HE CLAIMED MRS. MARCOS REMAINED "THE ONE AND ONLY CHOICE FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER INsofar AS MY PROVINCE (SOUTHERN LEYTE) IS CONCERNED. THE PUBLIC CLAMOR FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST LADY IS GENUINE."

4. IN SAME ARTICLE "TIMES JOURNAL" REPORTED A CALL BY SELF-PROCLAIMED MINDANAO LEADER OF THE MOVEMENT TO DRAFT MRS. MARCOS, ASSEMBLYMAN ALEJANDRO ALMENDRAS, FOR A KBL PARTY CAUCUS TO SETTLE THE QUESTION OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. REFERRING TO PRESIDENT MARCOS' INSTRUCTIONS TO IBP MEMBERS TO TEST THE WATER IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES REGARDING MRS. MARCOS' APPOINTMENT, ALMENDRAS COMMENTED, "TWO WEEKS AFTER ADJOURNMENT FOR A 30 DAY RECESS THE ASSEMBLYMEN MUST HAVE MADE THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS REGARDING THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER."

5. COMMENT: "TIMES JOURNAL" WAS THE ONLY PAPER TO CARRY REPORTS OF OTHER CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. GREATEST PORTION OF THE ARTICLE, HOWEVER, WAS DEVOTED TO CALLS FOR MRS. MARCOS' CANDIDACY WITH THE OTHER FIVE POSSIBILITIES MENTIONED ONLY BRIEFLY. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA15197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780355-0181
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978089/aaaaahat.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d4b9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 14980
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1812168
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIXED SIGNALS REGARDING POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF - MRS. MARCOS AS DEPUTY PM
TAGS: PGOV, RP, (MARCOS, IMELDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d4b9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014